

## Wright County Soil & Water Conservation District

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*The Wright County Soil & Water  
Conservation District Board of  
Supervisors and Staff wish you  
and yours a Happy Holiday  
Season!*

## Wright County Soil & Water Conservation District

WINTER 2009

# The Wright News

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**OZARKS FORAGE AND LIVESTOCK CONFERENCE**  
**FEBRUARY 18, 2010**  
**MANSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER**

**SPONSORED BY:**  
**WRIGHT COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE &**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION**

9:00 - 9:30 Registration  
9:30 - 10:15 Balanced Forage Program  
Marketing with Mick Plummer  
10:25 - 11:10 Vendor Information & District Programs  
11:20 - 12:00 Considerations When Selecting Cattle for an Ozarks Grazing  
System  
Fence Line Weaning  
12:00 - 12:45 Lunch  
12:45 - 1:45 Keynote Speaker - Garry Lacefield, Extension Agronomist/  
Professor, University of Kentucky  
1:55 - 2:40 Balanced Forage Program  
Considerations When Selecting Cattle for an Ozarks Grazing  
System  
2:50 - 3:35 Extending Your Grazing Season - Garry Lacefield &  
Mark Kennedy, NRCS State Grazing Lands Specialist

Roll Pipe - Things to Consider

By Wesley Lebahn, District Technician

When planning pipelines we are frequently hearing questions about whether or not a landowner can use black roll pipe. The answer to that is - it depends. If the roll pipe meets all of our specifications then yes the pipe is permitted. The question that follows is - would you use it? I can now say that I have some personal experience with using roll pipe and am able to give you some of my opinions.

I used 1 1/4" pipe which is available on a 500ft roll. This is a standard length available locally for various diameters of roll pipe. You do have the option to order other lengths of pipe on a roll; however, you will want to consider whether or not you have the ability to handle a longer roll of pipe.

My wife and I were able to handle the 500ft rolls without much trouble.

If you are unwinding the rolls by hand there will be the possibility of large loops coming off the roll unexpectedly. This happened to us as we were unrolling our first roll of pipe and we ended up with a kink in the roll. A kinked pipe means we had to cut and splice it which eliminated one benefit of the roll pipe, which is, no joints to glue or come apart. However, when the roll pipe does need to be spliced it is quite a job. We had to use barbed pipe couplers which are forced on each pipe and then threaded together. I was advised to use a muffler pipe expander in order to make these connections easier. If you are faced with this situation you will need to take that same advice as it would be impossible to get the barbs into the pipe without the expander.

Another benefit of the pipe is its ability to withstand rock punctures when the pipeline trench is being backfilled.

I did not put this claim to the test for a couple of reasons; 1) I did not want big rocks in my ditch if it ever became necessary to dig it up, and 2) I did not want to dig it up if it didn't work. Instead I used pea gravel to bed my pipe in the worst areas and covered the pipe with clean dirt in other areas. Another claim of



the pipe is that it can freeze without breaking. This is very important if the pipeline is being used above ground and it did not get drained before winter weather set in. In my situation where the pipe was buried at least 24 inches deep freezing should not be a concern. In order for the job to go smoothly be sure you have enough fittings to complete your project this will also save you a lot of trips back to town.

Summing up my opinion of the black roll pipe, it all comes down to landowner preference; however, I believe I would use it again.



Be sure to make plans to attend our Annual Meeting in April 2010



Benefits of Inter-seeding Legumes  
By Adam Reed, NRCS District Conservationist

There are a number of benefits from inter-seeding legumes such as clover and lespedeza into established grass pastures. Probably the most obvious benefit is that a pasture with a mixture of plants such as grass and legumes will almost always out yield a monoculture grass pasture. This is for a number of reasons, but most of it is due to different species having different growth periods throughout the year. For example, a pasture of pure fescue will grow well during the spring and fall months, but will grow very slowly during the hot summer months. If lespedeza is introduced into the pasture it will do the majority of its growing during the hot summer months when fescue is nearly dormant.

A second benefit of legumes is improved pasture quality. Legumes generally have higher palatability and protein than most grasses. They also do not have the endophyte problems that are commonly found in fescue. By introducing legumes into pasture you are also reducing the amount of fescue consumed by grazing animals which in turn reduces the amount of endophyte related problems commonly seen in cattle and horses. University studies have shown that livestock will have improved weight gains on pasture with legumes.

Lastly legumes are able to fix atmospheric nitrogen into the plant thus reducing the need of applying nitrogen fertilizer on the field.

The inter-seeding of legumes into pasture is not cheap, but much of this cost can be recovered through the benefits of increased yield, better pasture quality, improved feed conversion, and lower fertilizer expenses.

This is the perfect time of year (Jan – Feb) to dormant seed legumes. The freezing and thawing of the soil will naturally move the seed into the soil. These seedings are most successful when pastures are grazed short to set back competition and when soils are brought up to soil test recommendations. Below is a list of the most commonly seeded legumes and suggested seeding rates.

Species	Suggested Seeding Rates	Wet Soil Tolerance Rating	Drought Tolerance Rating
Ladino Clover	3.0	Medium	Low
Red Clover	6.0	None	Low
Common Lespedeza	7.0	Low	High

If you have any additional questions or would like to learn more about the benefits of legumes please contact your local SWCD office.